

MASON'S
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For Mason's Coin Magazine.

MAKING A COIN CABINET.

BY ROBERT MORRIS, LL. D.,

Secretary of the American Holy Land Exploration.

I have just finished reading the two last volumes of *Mason's Coin Magazine*, and, at the editor's request, will throw together a few practical thoughts for the next issue. The tendency to run into theory and speculation is too evident in all our numismatic authors. I looked through the twenty or thirty volumes of the *English Journal of Numismatics*, in the Astor Library, not long since, and observed with surprise how little of its space, comparatively, is taken up with plain matter of fact material, such as the ordinary reader would enjoy. And then criticism is chargeable upon coin literature, viz.: the want of elucidation of the coins. An amazing illustration of this is seen in that greatly over-praised work, "Prime's Coins, Medals and Seals, Ancient and Modern," published in 1861, by the Harpers. Not to say anything of the plates, evidently an old batch bought in England at second-hand, in which the finest mint marks and lesser attributions are omitted, the portraits caricatured and a general idea of artistic feebleness run through the whole four hundred and ninety-five illustrations, the most astounding defect is that the coins are only named and not described. I would ask Mr. Prime of what use he supposes such a work to be in the hands where I have seen it, that is of the general reader, as little as a collection of hieroglyphics from the Egyptian tombs without a translation. I feel like prosecuting the Harpers for "obtaining money under false pretense," when I reckon up my outlay for that pretentious and charmingly *useless* volume.

Now my little "Making a Coin Cabinet" suggests that a single ancient coin makes a cabinet, provided it can be perfectly read and its historical and numismatical relations thoroughly expounded. The best practical use that the popular numismatist can make of his science is to carry a coin in his pocket and be able, when he shows it, to preach a sermon from its text. I always fancied the idea of the old Greek epigraphs being in the *genitive* case, thus making the coin itself the *nominative*, as who should say: "I am the money of Alex-

ander," "I am the tetradrachm of Antiochus," etc. Were it possible for me to live over again my laborious life, I would educate my sons in history *through coins* used as pocket pieces and texts. I would hand them a specimen of one of the Crusadors and say, with Shakespeare:

"He fought
For Jesus Christ, in glorious Christian field,
Streaming the ensign of the Christian cross
Against black Pagans, Turks and Saracens!"

and, from this exordium, would proceed to a whole lecture on history, metals, coins, coin artists and coin machinery. I would compare the exquisite performances of Sicily, six centuries before Christ, to the rude *incusi* of Byzantium, twice as many centuries afterward. Those who have incautiously applied the epithet *trifling* to this noble science should have cause to withdraw the unjust fling.

If this coin had any product of the vegetable world upon it, I would show them how the emblems of fruits, flowers, grains, trees, shrubs, etc., embody the idea of the productions of countries and the richness of soils. I would point then to the fact that three heads of wheat, heavy and plump, appear on a coin of Cleopatra, wife of Juba, King of Mauritania, about B. C. 10. She was the daughter of Mark Antony and the celebrated Egyptian Cleopatra. With the lotus, her headdress will demand notice for its peculiarity, also the crescent and cross on the reverse. From this I would go on by the aid of engravings, and as far as I could procure them of actual specimens, to develop scores and hundreds of their artistic uses of botany.

In every respect I should aim to impress upon them the advice of Horace, viz.: that in the study of any description we must familiarize ourselves with the customs of every age, *cetatis cujusque notandi sunt tibi mores*. In this department of thought, I should find very much in the volumes of your excellent Coin Magazine, especially the valuable synopsis you have made from Ackerman and Humphrey.

As I have said, in this way, a few rare coins make a cabinet. This is fortunate for us Americans, for the cost and inconvenience of procuring ancient *Numismata* in this country are so great as to deter our learned and even wealthy men and colleges from the attempt to rival any even of the innumerable private collections of Europe. When you went abroad you must have seen or heard of hundreds of family museums of coins and medals, in England alone, surpassing in size, interest and value anything we have in this country. The cabinet of Brown University, Providence, R. I.; the really fine cabinet of Mr. Appleton, of Boston; that of Dr. Winslow Lewis, in the same city; the museum of coins attached to the State University of Vermont; the one presented by Amos Lawrence to the Lawrence Academy, at Groton, Mass., in 1850; all these and a dozen such added together would be but a moderate collection compared with some private cabinets in Europe.

For a person in the United States to attempt to exhaust his numis-

matic knowledge, zeal and money in making a full collection of ancient numismata is a hopeless task. But to form a cabinet on the plan I named, where each coin is a volume or suggests a volume of historic lore, serving to sharpen the memory and summon a cloud of witnesses around it, is within the means of every one. I carry a silver drachma of Alexander Balas in my pocket, which I bought at Safed, in the Holy Land, and find it always ready to speak to me when I finger it. It affords me, too, an excellent opportunity to show off my scanty stock of historical knowledge to others, for I can always get an auditor, even in the streets, by taking it out in company and commencing, "This is a coin one hundred and fifty years older than Christ. Alexander Balas was a man of great talent," etc. I have it by heart.

HISTORY OF A PENNY.

In the mint where all our pounds, shillings and pence are made, there were once a gold ducat and a penny just coined. There they lay, clean and shining, close together on a table, and the bright rays of the sun danced and sparkled on them.

Then said the sovereign to the penny:

"You lump, get away from me! You are only made of common copper, and are not worthy of the sunlight that shines on you. You will soon be lying all black and dirty on the ground, and no one will take the trouble of picking you up. I am made of costly gold. I shall travel about in the world with great lords and princes. I shall do great things, and perhaps some day shine in the emperor's crown."

In the same room there lay by the fire an old gray cat. When he heard this, he licked his paws thoughtfully, turned himself round on other side, and said:

"Some things go by the rule of contrary."

And so it proved with the pieces of money. It turned out the very contrary of what the gold ducat expected.

It fell into the possession of an old miser, who locked it up in a great chest where it lay idle and useless with hundreds of others like itself. But when the old miser found that he should not live much longer he buried all his money in the ground, that no one might get it, and there lies the proud ducat to this day, dirty and black, and no one will ever find it.

But the penny traveled far about in the world, and it came to high honor. And this is how it happened:

First one of the poor boys in the mint received it in his wages. He carried it home, and as his little sister was so delighted at the clean, shining penny, he gave it to her.

The child ran out into the garden to show it to her mother, and saw a poor, lame beggar passing by, who begged for a piece of bread.

"I haven't got any," said the child.

"Then give me a penny to buy some," said the beggar; and the child gave him her penny.

The beggar limped off to the baker's. Just as he came to the shop an old friend of his passed by, dressed as a pilgrim, with mantle, staff and script. He gave to some children, who were standing round the baker's door, pictures of good and holy men, and the children in return put some money in the little box he had in his hand. The beggar asked:

"Where are you travelling to?"

The pilgrim answered:

"Many hundred miles away, to the city of Jerusalem, where the Holy Christ dwelt and died. I wish to offer up prayers at his grave, and redeem my brother, who is a prisoner in the hands of the Turks; it is for this purpose that I beg for money."

"Then take a mite toward it from me," said the beggar.

And he gave the penny to the pilgrim, and would have gone away as hungry as he came had not the baker, who saw all that passed, given him the loaf which he had wished to buy.

And now the pilgrim had wandered through many lands, and went in a ship far over the sea to the holy city of Jerusalem. When he arrived there he first offered up his prayers at the sepulchre of Christ and then went to the Turkish sultan who kept his brother a prisoner. He offered the Turk a large sum of money if he would set his brother free. But the sultan wanted more.

The pilgrim said,

I have nothing more to offer you but this copper penny, which was given me by a poor, hungry beggar, out of compassion. May you also have pity, as he had, and this copper penny will secure you a reward."

Then the sultan took compassion on him, and set his brother free, and he received the penny from the pilgrim.

The sultan put the copper penny in his pocket, and after a little while forgot all about it. Now it happened that after a time the Emperor of Germany came to Jerusalem to fight against the sultan. So the sultan fought bravely at the head of his army, and was never wounded; but one day an arrow was aimed right at his breast; it struck him, indeed, but glanced off from his clothes without wounding him. The sultan was very much surprised, and when his clothes were examined after the battle, the penny was found in his pocket, and this had caused the arrow to glance off. So the sultan prized the penny very much, and had it fastened with a gold chain to the hilt of his curved sword. Some time afterward the sultan was made prisoner by the emperor, and had to yield up his sword to his conqueror. So the penny came into the possession of the emperor.

One day when the emperor was sitting at the table, and was just in the act of raising his goblet to his lips, the empress said she was anxious to see the curved Turkish sword. So it was brought in, and as the emperor was showing it to the empress, the penny became un-

fastened, and fell into the goblet of wine. The emperor saw it and before drinking the wine he took out the penny. But when he looked at it he perceived the penny had turned quite green. This showed everybody that there was poison in the goblet. A wicked servant had mixed the poison, hoping to kill the emperor. The servant was ordered to execution, but the penny was set in the emperor's crown.

So this penny made a child happy, gave bread to a beggar, delivered a prisoner, saved a sultan from being wounded and preserved the life of an emperor. It deserved to be set in an emperor's crown. Perhaps it is there to this day if we could only see the crown.

EDITORIAL TOUR.

On the fifteenth of July, we had the pleasure of taking a painful trip to some of the Eastern States, to note the progress of the coin trade. The pleasure experienced was entirely preliminary, and consisted in airy castles of meeting friends, exchanging coins, viewing handsome cabinets, fishing excursions and fish chowder, salt water baths, boating, etc. Our first disappointment was experienced in meeting a heavy rain storm, on the day of starting, in New York Bay, while on board the steamer *Continental*, bound to New Haven, rain fell in torrents accompanied by thunder and lightning. This compelled us to retire to the close and stifling air of the saloon, shut completely out from the fine scenery and refreshing sea air. Upon our arrival in New Haven, we called upon friend Parsons, and after examining his collection of fine cents and half cents, we were treated by his good lady to a pitcher full of fine spring water, fresh from the well.

If we could only stop at the last word of the last paragraph, all would be well; but, unfortunately, we cannot in justice to the facts. Well, well water is all well enough for those persons who have not been compelled to drink the filthy water of our own romantic Schuylkill; but, to a person unaccustomed to hard water, the feelings, after drinking a quart of the icy cold and refreshing spring liquid, are hard to realise, and will well up in bitter reproaches until one is almost compelled to throw up the idea of explaining, in full, the terrible results. Suffice it to say, that we stopped at a hotel in New Haven until morning, at which time we felt that a terrible battle was raging internally (reminding us of a claim eventually for indirect damages against a certain lady in New Haven), and ere long a temperance man was imbibing rather freely of brandy.

We started "sicker'n thunder" for Springfield, where we met, on arrival, Major Nichols, Collector Johnson and others; but pressing business compelled us to push on to Boston. At the latter city, the sight of a wheelbarrow full of boiled lobsters gave us a cramp under the waistcoat, and after spending a night in Cambridge and visiting friend Woodward and a few relatives at the Highlands, we concluded home and a doctor were preferable to the coin trade, and returned post haste to Philadelphia. Arrived in this city July 18, and was

treated for cholera morbus and diarrhœa with the best results, and now we spend our convalescent hours contentedly in the Quaker City, ruminating on the mishaps of a coin speculating tour in midsummer. Ah, well, "all's well that ends well"—well water included, and now we will leave well enough alone, come out of that never ending well, for lucky is he that can do well, a Dickens only could do Weller.

SUCCESSION OF ENGLISH SOVEREIGNS.

The following lines, memorised by numismatists, would serve to keep in mind, chronologically, the different sovereigns, from William the Conqueror to the present Queen of England:

William the Conqueror long did reign;
 William his son by an arrow was slain.
 Henry the First was a scholar bright;
 Stephen usurped his cousin's right.
 Second Henry Plantagenet's name did bear;
 Richard the First was the son and heir.
 The Magna Charta was gained by John,
 Which Henry the Third put a seal upon.
 Edward the First as a warrior shone;
 Edward the Second was hurled from his throne.
 Edward the Third was his subjects' pride;
 Richard the Second at Pomfret died.
 Henry the Fourth "Lancasterian line;"
 Henry the Fifth died at Agincourt shrine.
 Henry the Sixth had a warlike wife,
 And with Edward the Fourth had a civil strife.
 Edward the Fifth, a promising flower,
 By Richard the Third was killed in the tower.
 Henry the Seventh avenged his cause;
 Henry the Eighth despised the laws.
 Edward the Sixth a short time did reign;
 Mary was married to Philip of Spain.
 In Elizabeth's reign old England flourished;
 James the First in Scotland was nourished.
 Charles the First by his subjects was slain;
 An interregnum followed his reign.
 Then Oliver Cromwell, with stout command—
 Styled "Lord Protector" throughout the land;
 His son the sovereign power laid down,
 And Charles the Second took the crown.
 James the Second a Catholic proved,
 And by William and Mary was removed,
 The reign of Queen Anne was greatly admired;
 George the First was son of Sophia.
 The Second George was in Germany born;
 George the Third did reign very long.
 Then George the Fourth ascended the throne,
 Refused his wife, and reigned alone.
 Next William his brother, the fourth of the name—
 The "Sailor King"—all tongues proclaim.
 Then his maiden niece, so young and fair,
 To be Queen of the realm's lofty heir.
 Victoria now does wear the crown—
 Long may she live to England's renown!

A RELIC OF THE OLDEN TIME.

We have received an ancient coin, as a free will and friendly offering, from Dr. Morris, accompanied by the following eloquent and able communication:

LAGRANGE, KY., August 1872.

BROTHER AND DEAR SIR—As the most acceptable token I can tender you, from the lands of the Bible and Freemasonry, I present you this

ANCIENT COIN, EXHUMED FROM A RUINED CITY, and I respectfully ask your acceptance of the fraternal gift. It comes to you not alone with the voice of friendship and brotherly love, but as a shadow of days gone by; of times whose very history is but dust and ashes; peoples, whose names alone survive, and whose tongues, silent in all other things, are vocal only in stone or in metal like this. What a history is wrapped up in this diminutive *nummus* of the Roman Empire!

There is nothing that so gratifies the intelligence of an antiquarian, particularly a Freemason—nothing that so forcibly reveals the sense of the long-vanished years—as a genuine COIN like this, especially when we consider IN WHAT SOIL it has so long been hidden, and what ruins have so long TYLED it from the eye and hand of the unmasonic cowl! A piece of antique *money* is even more redolent of antiquity, when rightly viewed, than an antique tower or pillar; because *the latter* is always seen *in ruins*, defaced, scarred by foes, dilapidated, gnawed by the tooth of time, and suggestive only of the imbecility of man laboring to build for eternity; while *the coin*, after its rust has been carefully removed, stands before us a perfect piece of human wormanship, its portrait, epigraph and allegorical devices executed in a style that modern art vainly strives after, glowing with the pompous titles of antiquity, and mystical even as the Masonic emblems themselves, of events deemed worthiest of preservation. Holding this coin in your hand, my brother, you handle an ANCIENT MONUMENT, genuine, complete, *a page in the history of our race!*

BROTHER AND DEAR FRIEND—My own tastes impel me so much to studies of this nature that, in presenting you this coin as a Freemason, bearing your laudable part in the Masonic enterprises of the age, I propose it as a token of congenialty of pursuit, oneness in fraternal sympathy, admiration for glorious deeds, whether ancient or modern, and of personal respect for your Masonic station. The very dust and rust adhering to this coin are the remains of dead races, fighting through fire and steel for life and liberty, and lying defeated and crushed at last beneath the ruins of all they loved. I pray you, therefore, to receive it in the spirit with which it is tendered, and with it an Honorary Membership in our Society of AMERICAN NUMISMATISTS. And while it remains in your possession let it communicate to you, from time to time, the heartfelt respects and affection of the donor.

With loving and faithful regards,

Yours, in strong bonds of Masonry,

ROB. MORRIS,

Secretary American Holy Land Exploration.

E. MASON, JR., Philadelphia, Pa.

THE CURIOSITY HUNTER.

All the way from Rockford, Ill., comes this neat little four page monthly, as clean as a newly scrubbed wash tub and quite as useful in its way. *The Curiosity Hunter* contains quite a number of interesting articles in reference to coins, stamps, curiosities, etc. Terms, fifty cents per annum. D. A. K. Andrus, publisher.

NUMISMATICS AT THE CINCINNATI EXPOSITION.

We find the following article in the *Cincinnati Commercial*, of September 14, and transfer it to our journal with great pleasure. We are glad to know that numismatics has a few advocates in Ohio, and among them one so able and willing to administer a rebuke to the thick-headed managers of Department N as Mr. Prescott, one of the leading numismatists of the west:

CINCINNATI, September 13, 1872.

To the Editor of the Commercial:

"Numismatician" wishes to know, in to-day's issue of your paper, why the science of numismatics is so poorly represented at the Exposition, and asks, with just surprise: "Is it possible that no better collection than the few mint medals that are exhibited are owned by any collector in this city?"

As to why the display of coins was confined to a set of mint medals and a few miscellaneous pieces the committee of that department (N) or the chairman of it will have to answer and explain, as I have a collection of about five thousand pieces, embracing a period of twenty-six hundred years, which I offered to the chairman of said committee, providing he would cause to be offered, as a premium, a medal of sufficient value to cover the expense of show-cases, etc., necessary to exhibit a collection of that size; but, through want of liberality, the offer was rejected, and several collectors who had, previous to the issue of the premium list, made arrangements to exhibit, declined to do so when they saw the smallness of the premium offered for competition.

The subject of numismatics was almost entirely ignored by the chairman of Department N. Two meetings were called for "all persons interested in this Department (N)," and at each the entire time was devoted to Natural History. Numismatics was not and could not be mentioned. The Natural History Society was allowed one hundred dollars from the general fund of the Exposition, and another one hundred dollars, raised by subscription, to defray the expenses of removal, arranging and rent of cases. Now, if one-half of the energy, accommodation and persuasion that was brought to bear upon the Natural History Society, and naturalists generally, had been devoted to the subject of numismatics, the collectors of this city would alone have made a display that, in point of interest, number of specimens and attractiveness, would have been far superior to that of the naturalists.

Very few persons have any idea of the number or extent of the numismatic collections in this and surrounding cities; they are all of a private character, and nothing except our Exposition or something similar can ever bring them before the public, and then only when suitable inducements are offered and reasonable requests granted.

Department N of the Exposition was a peculiar and delicate one to manage, being one in which everything exhibited was of a character from which no benefit, pecuniary or otherwise, could be derived; therefore a far greater amount of ability than in any other department of the Exposition was required of the committee, but from the result of their labors, to say nothing of the favoritism shown the naturalists, to the detriment of the numismatians, I must say that there was a lack of that necessary qualification.

WM. J. PRESCOTT.

EXPLANATION.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOSTON, July 12, 1872.

MESSRS. MASON & Co.—GENTS: The Monthly Coin Collectors' Magazine comes to us through the agency of Messrs. A. Williams & Co. The last received, previous to No. 5, July, was No. 3 March and April. Writing to

A. W. & Co., after the usual delay, we received this report: "Coin Collectors' Magazine discontinued." and struck it from our list. It was an agreeable surprise to find the report incorrect. I see it is to be a *quarterly* now. Messrs. A. Williams & Co., Washington Street, corner of School, are our agents for two hundred magazines. They are fully reliable and, if your dues are not paid, you have only to send to them.

With much respect, your humble and obedient servant,

EDWARD CAPEN.

Our correspondent will find, in reference to the magazines, that we skipped May and June in order to commence the quarterly July 1. The report of a discontinuance was doubtless father to the thought or mother to the wish with some persons anxious to anticipate our taking off. When we conclude to discontinue this journal, each subscriber shall have ample notice of the misfortune.

FREEMASONRY IN THE HOLY LAND.

What, exclaims the reader, has freemasonry to do with numismatics? We reply that it has, thus far, accomplished many things of great interest to the student of ancient numismatic history. It has equipped and sent out to the Holy Land a distinguished savant and numismatist, Robert Morris, LL. D., of Kentucky, whose researches have been embodied in a beautiful and valuable volume of six hundred and eight large pages, embellished with over two hundred choice illustrations; and this work has many references to ancient coinage with *fac similes* of rare and interesting specimens of Greek and Roman issues. After several years of laborious travel and persistent investigation in a land rich in numismatic history; Dr. Morris has published his great work, "Freemasonry in the Holy Land; or, Handmarks of Hiram's Builders." To the reader we would say get this book at once, and thereby become a member of the American Association of Numismatists, and the American Holy Land Exploration. By remitting *four dollars* to Robert Morris, Lagrange, Ky., you become a subscriber, receive a magnificent and handsomely bound volume as above described and certificate of membership in two worthy scientific associations. To our Masonic readers, we would say you cannot well do without Freemasonry in the Holy Land, and, if your head is level, send your subscription to a good, square honest brother, who has traveled as far as thirty-two degrees latitude east and is a *grand* author and *master* of ancient history, to say nothing of other abilities. There is no *rust* about Dr. Morris, unless the rust of ages, found on the many ancient coins which he has collected.

TO COIN COLLECTORS.

We shall continue to buy and sell coins, as heretofore, and would solicit all collectors, in want of special pieces, to send us a list of their wants. We will give price and condition to all applications for coins, and trust by fair and prompt dealing to receive a continuance of favors from our old patrons. Coin collections catalogued for public sale on reasonable terms.

NUMISMATIC JOURNAL.

We have long pondered over the fact that modern numismatic publications, in the shape of magazines and newspapers, have proved decided failures. Even the London numismatic quarterly, *The Chronicle*, fails to meet the wants of the present generation of numismatists.

By reference to a communication in this number of our magazine, it will be seen that the distinguished oriental traveler and author, Dr. Morris, finds ample reason to criticise the *London Numismatic Chronicle*. Societies and individuals have entered the field as publishers, unsuccessfully, not only in this country but in Europe. There is a reason for this want of success among numismatic journals; and a powerful one, in this country, is found in the lack of coin collectors and antiquarians. A friend has suggested to us a good plan for the publication of a numismatic journal, viz: "Co-operation." Half a dozen competent individuals form an association and divide the labors. One assume the financial department; another the general supervision of the magazine; then appoint a competent party to edit the American coinage department; another to edit the European department; a third to manage the ancient coin department, and each to furnish general items of interest, report new discoveries, such as types and varieties of the world's coinage, interspersing the whole with the most interesting proceedings of the various numismatic societies; culling the short and spicy events that occur in any manner appertaining to the science; illustrating the most important matter with cuts or photographs; admit short communications and throw the columns open to the discussion of scientific subjects generally. Who will move in this matter?

BODEY'S COLLECTION.

The cabinet of coins advertised to be sold in this city, October 29 and 30, is the same that we referred to in a previous number of the magazine, to obtain which three enterprising individuals, viz.: Fewsmith, Warner and Mason traveled far and suffered much, particularly the latter individual, who was thrown from a wagon and picked up insensible, and now lives to write this little note in reference to it. The Bodey collection embraces about six hundred lots, and contains some rare dollars in addition to the pieces spoken of in another portion of this magazine. All orders will be faithfully executed by Mason & Co., Assembly Building, or Box 1893, Philadelphia.

END OF VOLUME VI.

Subscribers are notified that this magazine will appear in a new form hereafter, and we would suggest that this and the preceding volumes be bound at once. Our price for subscriptions to Volume I, 1873, of the new issue will remain at the old rate, \$1 50 per annum. Coin priced catalogue for 1873, showing prices paid by dealers, will be 25 cents.

COIN CABINETS.

With cost and dimensions; also the best method of preserving coins and medals, with a description of some of the best cabinets in the United States.

BY E. M., JR.

(Continued from April No., 1872.)

MAJ. C. P. NICHOLS' CABINET, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

This cabinet is made of mahogany, 3 feet 3 inches in height, 2 feet 2 inches wide, 1 foot 3 inches deep, marble top, folding doors panelled and beaded. There are 47 drawers, lined with black velvet and cotton flannel, so arranged that no space is lost between them, the sides of the cabinet being grooved to receive the lids on each end of the drawers.

The collection consists of coins and medals as follows :

Proof sets 1858 to 1872, inclusive.

51 American silver dollars, full set except 1804.

77 American silver half dollars, full set.

57 American silver quarter dollars, full set except 1823 and 1827.

66 American silver dimes, full set except 1804.

54 American silver half dimes, full set except 1802.

22 American silver three cents, full set, mostly proofs.

89 American cents, full set.

32 American half cents, incomplete.

80 Colonials.

35 gold coins, among which are early American.

Ecu a al couronne or crown of gold, Charles VI, of France, 1380 to 1422.

Gold angel of Henry VIII, 1509 to 1547.

Twenty Pesos Emperador Maximiliano, Carolina, Mormon, Japanese, Spanish, South and Central American, California and others.

62 Greek and Roman, mostly silver.

70 French silver coins in sets.

30 Spanish silver coins in sets.

16 Mexican silver coins.

12 Belgium silver coins.

25 Denmark silver coins.

13 Turkey silver coins.

10 Saxony silver coins.

10 Holland silver coins.

14 Russian copper coins.

28 Italy silver coins.

25 Switzerland silver coins.

10 Prussian silver coins.

10 Frankfort silver coins.

14 Austrian silver coins.

10 Sicily silver coins.

4 Greek silver coins.

7 Haiti silver coins.

33 French copper coins in sets.

10 Spanish copper coins.

6 Mexican copper coins.

8 Belgium copper coins.

20 Denmark copper coins.

10 Turkey copper coins.

10 Saxony copper coins.

5 Holland copper coins.

16 Russian silver coins.

35 Italy copper coins.

10 Switzerland copper coins.

5 Prussian copper coins.

6 Frankfort copper coins.

10 Austrian copper coins.

4 Sicily copper coins.

4 Greek copper coins.

7 Siam silver coins.

- 48 Trial or pattern pieces of the United States Mint.
- 192 English silver coins in sets, crown to silver penny.
- 116 English copper coins in sets.
 - 51 South and Central American silver coins.
 - 22 South and Central American copper coins.
 - 8 Bavarian silver coins.
 - 17 Brunswick and Lunenburg silver coins.
 - 18 Portugal and Brazil silver coins.
 - 20 Portugal and Brazil copper coins.
- 150 Early German copper coins.
- 103 Miscellaneous copper coins.
- 118 Canadian copper coins (as per Sandham).
 - 24 Provincial (English) silver tokens.
- 162 Tradesmen's tokens or farthings of the 17th century.
- 273 Provincial tokens, penny size, of the 18th century.
- 1632 Provincial tokens, half penny size, of the 18th century.
- 157 Provincial tokens, farthing size, of the 18th century.
 - 72 Penny tokens of 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814 and 1815.
 - 20 Half penny tokens of 1812, 1813, 1814 and 1815.
- 129 Silver medals, mostly large size.
- 285 Bronze medals, mostly large size.
- 153 White metal medals, mostly large size.
- 381 Small medals and medalets, copper, brass and white metal.
 - 85 United States Mint bronze medals.
- 430 Political medals.
- 345 Washington coins, medals and medalets.
 - 17 Franklin bronze medals.
- 1315 Store cards and copper heads.
 - 22 Hard times tokens, besides many duplicates not included in the above list.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

There will be a sale of valuable American coins, in this city, on the 29th inst., to continue two days. The sale will take place at the auction rooms of T. Birch & Son's, No. 1110 Chestnut street. The catalogue contains many choice pieces, among which are the Washington silver half dollar of 1792, silver centre cent of same date, 1794 dollar, rare colonials, gold, silver and copper coins of all nations, rare United States half cents, etc. Catalogues will be mailed on application to Mason & Co., Assembly Building, or Post Office Box 1893, Philadelphia.

TO COIN COLLECTORS AND DEALERS.

We are preparing our stock with a view of opening a coin depot in a few days—location now uncertain—and we particularly request our customers and bidders to add the number of our Post Office Box 1893 to all letters mailed to us until they receive a circular containing our new location.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS, BOSTON, MASS.

This quarterly comes to us on time and is filled with a variety of interesting articles—notable the communications of W. A. Whitehead “Mark Newby Coinage” and Robert Morris “Trading for Coins among the Arabs.” A. C. Zabriskie has a timely article in reference to the different types and varieties of the Lincoln medals, in which he shadows forth his purpose of publishing a catalogue of all the attainable matter having reference to the subject, with a description of all the known Lincolns. All our readers should help the noble work by looking up the various Lincoln pieces in their cabinets and send rubbings or impressions of the same to the herein named gentleman, No. 12 East Thirtieth street, New York. *The American Journal of Numismatics* for October looks healthy and fresh.

OBITUARY.

We regret to learn of the decease of our old friend and brother coin dealer, W. S. Lincoln, of London, England. Mr. Lincoln was one of the prominent numismatists of London, where he was engaged in the coin trade for many years, and established a name for fair dealing which will long be remembered and appreciated, particularly in the United States, where he had many correspondents and friends. We hope to receive particulars of Mr. Lincoln's decease for our next issue.

Our readers will be pained to learn of the death of Jacob R. Eckfeldt, for many years assayer of the United States Mint. His decease occurred in this city, on the 9th of August, in the seventieth year of his age, and will be long lamented, not only by this community but the world at large.

PROSPECTIVE NUMISMATIC PUBLICATION.

We learn from a note from Dr. Robert Morris, Lagrange, Kentucky, that he is employed upon a monograph, entitled, “The Medalic History of Commodus, Emperor of Rome.” The exactness with which his specimens of the coinage of that reign are elucidated in this *brochure* can be seen from the article from his pen, in our present issue. It will consist of a pamphlet of forty-eight large pages, illustrated by twenty-one coins of Commodus, and will appear during the approaching winter.

ROYAL CROCKERY.

A recent English work says the plate at Windsor is kept in a tolerably sized room and an adjoining closet, and is valued at one million seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling! There is one gold service, formed by George IV., to dine one hundred and thirty guests. Some pieces were taken from the Spanish Armada, some brought from India, Burmah and China. There are thirty dozen of plates which cost twenty-six guineas each plate.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NUMISMATISTS.

The aims of this society are to collect and distribute coins and medals, chiefly ancient, for the encouragement, among Americans, of the study of history in this its best monumental department. The society is made a branch of the American Holy Land Exploration, of which the Hon. Richard Beardsly, United States Consul at Jerusalem, is President, and the Hon. E. T. Rogers, H. B. M.'s Consul at Cairo, is Vice President—to avoid a multiplicity of officers and agencies and to lessen the expenses, and because the bulk of our coin collections of antiquities must be procured in Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Asia Minor, where the acknowledged agents of that society are operating. Already, up to May, 1872, more than nine thousand genuine ancient specimens of the bronze coinage from the Greek, Roman, Syrian, Egyptian and other eastern mints have been collected through the instrumentality of this vigorous, young society, and means are now on foot to secure an unlimited supply of such so far as genuine specimens are extant.

The Association engages to supply students, teachers and all inquirers in historical lore, at prices running parallel with the cost of collection, the following objects:

1. Coins, medals and metallic tokens, of all ages, countries, models and metals, so far as genuine ones can be procured.
2. Books, treatises, tractates and magazines, treating in whole or in part upon numismatical science.
3. Written and printed descriptions of coins, etc., from the most reliable sources.

Address, Robert Morris, Lagrange, Ky.

FENIAN MEDAL.

J. Colvin Randall, of this city, has a medal issued by the Fenian Association, which bears the following description:

Obv.—Flying eagle, with long label or ribbon in the beak, having thereon the legend: "American Manufactures and Ireland's Independence. Solidarity." Harp depending from lower portion of ribbon.

Rev.—In four lines:

"We purpose 'fore high heaven,
'Til Erin's chains are riven,
For works by Britain made
No more we'll trade."

The above lines are surrounded by thirty-seven stars; bronze proof; size 24.

WANTED.

Complete sets of this journal wanted at an advance on cost price. Also wanted, the following numbers: April, 1867; January, August, October, November, December, 1868; January, February, March, April and June, 1869; January, February, March, 1870; January, 1871; January, July, 1872.

OUR FLAG STILL WAVING.

Those of our readers who have not received a priced list of coins on sale will please report the fact. We shall be prepared to fill any order on our list as soon as this magazine reaches the reader. Our arrangements for opening a new depot for sale of coins will be perfected by October 15, and each subscriber will receive notice of location, etc. All reports that we have discontinued the coin business are premature, and have doubtless resulted from our intended change of base. The Assembly Building having been leased for a term of years, we will be obliged to change our quarters. Correspondents will address Box 1893 in addition to the usual address.

APOLOGY.

Any of our correspondents feeling aggrieved at the delay which has occurred in replying to their communications, will please have patience. We were under the necessity of making a tour through Ohio and Indiana, during the month of September, which delayed our magazine beyond its time, and disarranged our correspondence. We are once more at home and prepared for business.

OUR NEXT VOLUME.

Those of our patrons wishing to subscribe for volume seventh are earnestly solicited to give notice prior to January 1, 1873. It is our purpose, if the subscription list will warrant it, to make some decided improvements in the conduct of our magazine. We have the promise of assistance from some of the best numismatic writers in this country.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. H., HARTFORD.—The ancient Greek silver coins are distinguished by size. The smallest coin is termed Tetarbolus; the largest is named Tetradrachm; the intermediate sizes, commencing at Tetarobolus, Hemibolus, Obolus, Dyobolus, Triobolus or Hemidrachm, Drachma, Didrachm, Tridrachm.

R. M., LAGRANGE, KY.—The coin we received from you is an Anastatius instead of Justinianus. Thanks for the paper. The motto "God Our Trust," which appears on the experimental coins issued by the United States Mint in 1863, is said to have been first suggested by President Lincoln in 1862. The adopted motto, "In God We Trust," first appeared on the regular coinage in 1865.

R. P. M., BOSTON.—The coins issued by the Roman Emperor Caracalla can be distinguished from those of Elagabalus, the names being the same, by the following: Caracalla commonly has the title *Germanicus* or *Britannicus*, which the other has not. The coin Elagabalus always has a star or asterisk behind or before the figure on the reverse, which is never found on the coins of Caracalla.

L. L. W., TRENTON.—Coins can be had at this office as before. We do not intend deserting the coin trade.

S. T. L., INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—Regret that you did not get your cabinet in the exhibition or fair recently held in your city. The wooden headed committee men who pooh, pooh, numismatics at fairs would give a gold medal cheerfully for a mammoth squash or fat hog, but they could not possibly find room for a set of American coins, thus showing that with them *stomach* has the advantage of *brains*, and the *belly* is more prized than the *intellect*. Alas! that it should be so.

R. P., CLEVELAND, O.—Have you received the catalogue of coins? You are credited with subscription for 1873. Although we purpose making great improvements with the next volume, shall not increase the price.

DR. R. M., LAGRANGE, KY.—Answered your last letter. Order received, but not yet presented. Hope to have an article for January number from your prolific pen.

COINS FOR SALE.

- 1793 Cent; wreath; fine, \$10; good, \$3; fair, \$2.
- 1793 Cent; wreath; poor, \$1; very poor, 50 cents.
- 1793 Cent; chain or link; fine, \$12; good, \$6; poor, \$2.
- 1794 Cent; fine, \$1; good, 50 cents; fair, 15 cents.
- 1795 Cent; sharp; uncirculated, \$20; good, 50 cents.
- 1799 Cent; extra good, \$10; fair, \$5; poor, \$3.
- 1804 Cent; fine, \$15; good, \$5; poor, \$2.
- 1805 Cent; fine, \$2; good, 50 cents; poor, 20 cents.
- 1806 Cent; fine, \$4; good, 50 cents; poor, 20 cents.
- 1809 Cent; fine, \$6; \$2 50; poor, 75 cents.
- 1811 Cent; fine, \$10; good, \$1; fair, 50 cents; poor, 25 cents.
- All other dates furnished in any condition required.
- 1794 U. S. Half Dollar; extra good, \$3; good, \$2.
- 1795 U. S. Half Dollar; fine, \$2; good, \$1.
- 1793 Half Cent; very good, \$3 50; fair, \$1 50; poor, 75 cents.
- 1836 Pattern Two Cent Piece; copper proof, \$2.
- 1856 Nickel Cent; copper proof, \$3 50; nickel proof, \$2.
- 1856 Nickel Cent; uncirculated, \$1 50; good, \$1.
- 1869 Pattern Set—One, Three and Five Cents, \$5.
- All common dates of Half Dollars supplied from 75 cents to \$1; fine condition.
- All common dates of Quarter Dollars supplied from 35 cents to 50 cents; extra good to fine.
- Dimes, Half Dimes and Silver Three Cent Pieces always in stock; price according to condition and rarity.
- Pattern Pieces supplied and impressions mailed with price when required.
- American Store Cards; \$2 to \$4 per 100; all different.
- Foreign Coins; \$2 per 100, fair condition; \$5 per 100, fine.

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